

National Aeronautics and Space Administration

Office of the Administrator  
Washington, DC 20546-0001



May 30, 2012

Dr. Steven W. Squyres  
Chairman  
NASA Advisory Council  
Washington, DC 20546

  
Dear Dr. Squyres:

Enclosed is NASA's response to a recommendation from the NASA Advisory Council meeting held on March 8-9, 2012, at NASA Headquarters. Please do not hesitate to contact me if the Council would like further background on the response. I appreciate the Council's thoughtful consideration leading to the recommendations and welcome its continued findings, recommendations, and advice concerning the U.S. civil space program.

I look forward to working closely with you and members of the Council in the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "C. Bolden, Jr.", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Charles F. Bolden, Jr.  
Administrator

Enclosure:  
2012-01-03 (HEOC-03) International Involvement

## **NASA Advisory Council Recommendation**

### **International Involvement 2012-01-03 (HEOC-03)**

#### **Recommendation:**

The Council recommends identifying an existing International Space Station (ISS) International Partner(s) to accelerate expansion of international participation in future deep-space exploration planning. This expanded partnership will bring international resources to exploration and enhance sustainability. For any mission that is selected, additional hardware is needed beyond the Space Launch System (SLS) and Multi-Purpose Crew Vehicle (MPCV) such as a lander, habitat, advanced propulsion systems, etc.

#### **Major Reasons for the Recommendation:**

History has shown that International Partnerships have been effective. On ISS the partners have provided additional pressurized elements (i.e., laboratories, nodes and logistics modules), launch vehicles (i.e., Soyuz, Proton, Ariane-5, H2), cargo/crew transfer vehicles (i.e., Soyuz Transport Modified Anthropometric [TMA], Automated Transfer Vehicle [ATV], H2 Transfer Vehicle (HTV)), navigation systems, ground control centers, robotic systems, and training facilities.

#### **Consequences of No Action on the Recommendation:**

Limited U.S. resources will delay exploration of the solar system. Additionally, strength of international treaties will benefit sustainability of exploration programs.

#### **NASA Response:**

NASA concurs with the intent of this recommendation. Discussions with the international community via both the ISS Multilateral Control Board's action to assess future exploration planning (part of the ISS Expert Working Group – Team 4) and multilateral International Space Exploration Coordination Group are both ongoing and productive. International Partnerships are a vital component of a robust, affordable, and sustainable human space exploration program and a key part of NASA's forward planning. Further partnerships will be established when the programmatic, political, economic, and technical factors align.

Enclosure